Bi-lateral trade with Norway

2458. SHRI NANA DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indo-Norway IT trade would increase by $100 million by 2004-2005;

(b) if so, what is the target fixed for each of the coming financial year;

(c) what are the other major areas of bi-lateral trade with Norway; and

(d) to what extent, our export to that country would boost?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) and (b) Exports of computer software and services from India to Norway during 2000-01 is estimated at approx. US $ 4 million. The Government does not fix country-wise targets for IT trade which is based on market forces.

(c) The major items of exports to Norway include cotton and manmade yarn/fabrics/madeups, readymade garments of cotton and manmade fibres, drugs, pharmaceuticals and fine chemicals, handicrafts, leather goods and garments, manufactures of metals, carpets, electronic goods, gems and jewellery, plastic and linoleum products, etc. The major items of imports from Norway include non-ferrous metals, electronic goods, organic/inorganic chemicals, machinery, news print, primay steel/pig iron based items, paper board and manufactures, pulp and waste paper, chemical materials and products, professional instruments, manufactures of metals, etc.

(d) During 2000-01, our export to Norway registered a growth of about 18% in dollar terms. It is expected that this positive trend would continue in the coming years.

Export of iron ore to China

2459. SHRI K.M. KHAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Mineral Development Corporation has decided to export fine iron ore from its Bailadila mines to China for the first time;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the quality of fine iron ore to be exported to China during the current year;